

(5) Employment services, including an initial employment period of up to three months.

(c) *Reader responsibility.* The reader should be able to do more than read to the veteran. The reader should have an understanding of the subject matter based upon prior training or experience which allows him or her to:

(1) Read printed material with understanding; and

(2) Test the veteran's understanding of what has been read.

(d) *Extent of service.* The number of hours of service will be determined in each case by the amount of reading necessitated by the course and the efficacy of other equipment with which the veteran has been furnished to enable him or her to read printed material unassisted.

(e) *Recording.* VA will not normally pay for recording textbooks or other materials as a part of reader services, since excellent recording services are provided by volunteer organizations at no cost.

(f) *Selecting a relative as a reader.* Utilization of a relative of the veteran as a reader is subject to the limitations on use of a relative as an attendant under § 21.374.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a)(14))

§ 21.152 Interpreter service for the hearing impaired.

(a) *General.* The main purpose of interpreter service for the hearing impaired is to facilitate instructor-student communication. VA will provide interpreter service as necessary for the development and pursuit of a rehabilitation program. This service will be provided if:

(1) A VA physician determines that:

(i) The veteran is deaf or his or her hearing is severely impaired; and

(ii) All appropriate services and aids have been furnished to improve the veteran's residual hearing; or

(2) A VA physician determines that the veteran:

(i) Can benefit from language and speech training; and

(ii) Agrees to undertake language and speech training.

(b) *Periods during which interpreter service may be provided.* Interpreter service may be furnished during:

(1) Initial evaluation or reevaluation;

(2) Extended evaluation;

(3) Rehabilitation to the point of employability;

(4) Independent living services; or

(5) Employment services, including the first three months of employment.

(c) *Selecting the interpreter.* Only certified interpreters or persons meeting generally accepted standards for interpreters shall provide interpreter service. When an individual is not certified by a State or professional association, VA shall seek the assistance of a State certifying agency or a professional association in ascertaining whether the individual is qualified to serve as an interpreter.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a)(14))

(d) *Relatives.* Interpreter service at VA expense may not be provided by a relative of the veteran. The term *relative* has the same meaning as under § 21.374 pertaining to the use of relatives as attendants.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3492)

§ 21.154 Special transportation assistance.

(a) *General.* A veteran, who because of the effects of disability has transportation expenses in addition to those incurred by persons not so disabled, shall be provided a transportation allowance to defray such additional expenses. The assistance provided in this section is in addition to provisions for interregional and intraregional travel which may be authorized under provisions of §§ 21.370 through 21.376.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a)(13))

(b) *Periods during which special transportation allowance may be provided.* A special transportation allowance may be provided during:

(1) Extended evaluation;

(2) Rehabilitation to the point of employability;

(3) Independent living services; or

(4) Employment services, including the first three months of employment.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a)(14))

(c) *Scope of transportation assistance.*

(1) Transportation assistance includes

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mileage, parking fees, reasonable fee for a driver, transportation furnished by a rehabilitation facility or sheltered workshop, and other reasonable expenses which may be incurred in local travel;

(2) The veteran's monthly transportation allowance may not exceed the lesser of actual expenses incurred or one-half of the subsistence allowance of a single veteran in full-time institutional training, unless extraordinary arrangements, such as transportation by ambulance, are necessary to enable a veteran to pursue a rehabilitation program.

(d) *Determining the need for a transportation allowance.* The case manager will determine the need for a transportation allowance. The assistance of a medical consultant shall be utilized, as necessary, to determine the need for special transportation assistance and to develop transportation arrangements which do not unduly tax the veteran's ability to travel and pursue a rehabilitation program.

(e) *Use of a relative precluded.* A relative of the veteran may not be paid any part of a special transportation allowance. The term *relative* has the same meaning as under § 21.374 pertaining to the use of a relative as an attendant.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a)(13))

§ 21.155 Services to a veteran's family.

(a) *General.* VA shall provide services to a veteran's family which are necessary to the implementation of the veteran's rehabilitation plan. The term *family* includes the veteran's immediate family, legal guardian, or any individual in whose home the veteran certifies an intention to live.

(b) *Scope of services to a veteran's family.* The services which may be furnished to the family are generally limited to consultation, homecare training, counseling, and mental health services of brief duration which are designed to enable the family to cope with the veteran's needs. Extended medical, psychiatric or other services may not be furnished to family members under these provisions.

(c) *Providing services to a veteran's family.* VR&C Staff will:

(1) Identify services which family members may need to facilitate the rehabilitation of the veteran; and

(2) Arrange for provision of the services which have been identified.

(d) *Resources for provision of services to family members.* (1) The established program and services which are furnished by Veterans Health Administration (VHA) to family members of veterans eligible for Chapter 31 should be used to the extent practicable; but

(2) If services are not readily available through regular VHA programs, necessary services will normally be secured through arrangements with other public and nonprofit agencies.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a)(11))

[49 FR 40814, Oct. 18, 1984, as amended at 62 FR 17708, Apr. 11, 1997]

§ 21.156 Other incidental goods and services.

(a) *General.* Other incidental goods and services may be authorized if the case manager determines them to be necessary to implement the veteran's rehabilitation plan. For example, a calculator may be authorized for a veteran pursuing an engineering degree, even though the veteran may not be required to have a calculator for any specific subject in his or her course, where there is substantial evidence that lack of a calculator places the veteran at a distinct disadvantage in successfully pursuing the course.

(b) *Limitation on cost.* The costs of incidental goods and services normally should not exceed five percent of training costs for any twelve-month period.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a)(10))

INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICES

§ 21.160 Independent living services.

(a) *Purpose.* The purpose of independent living services is to assist eligible veterans whose ability to function independently in family, community, or employment is so limited by the severity of disability (service and nonservice-connected) that vocational or rehabilitation services need to be appreciably more extensive than for less disabled veterans.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3104(a)(15), 3109, 3120)